

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5263

ANSWERED ON:05.04.2017

Expansion of Nuclear Programme

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Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a)whether the Government has held a meeting with Australian Minister for Resources pertaining to the issues of growth and expansion of the nuclear programme and if so, the details and the outcomes thereof;

(b)whether the Government proposes to double/triple the uranium extraction and production in the near future and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) whether the Government proposes to construct new Nuclear Power Plants (NPPs) in the eastern, northern and north-eastern parts of the country and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (Dr. JITENDRA SINGH):

(a)Yes, Sir. Hon'ble MOS (PMO) met with Australian Minister for Resources on March 8, 2017 in New Delhi during which both sides had general exchange of views regarding promotion of mutually beneficial cooperation between India and Australia in the field of civil nuclear energy.

(b) Uranium Corporation of India Ltd., a Public Sector Undertaking under Department of Atomic Energy is engaged in mining and processing of uranium ore in the country. The company is currently operating seven uranium mines (Bagjata, Jaduguda, Bhatin, Narwapahar, Turamdih, Banduhurang and Mohuldih) and two processing plants (Jaduguda plant and Turamdih plant) in the state of Jharkhand. Construction of mine and plant has been started at Tummalapalle in Andhra Pradesh. UCIL has outlined a plan for massive expansion which includes plan to maintain sustained supply from existing facilities, capacity expansion of some existing units and construction of new production centers (mines and plants) in different parts of the country. Considering the resources already identified in different geological basins by Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), UCIL's major production centers are planned in Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telengana, Rajasthan and Meghalaya.

(c)The details of sites accorded "in-principle" approval for setting up nuclear power plants in the northern and eastern region are as follows:

Location & State Capacity (MW)

Northern Region

Gorakhpur, Haryana 4 x 700

Mahi Banswara, Rajasthan 4 x 700

Eastern Region

Haripur, West Bengal 6 x 1000

There is presently no proposal to set up nuclear power plants in the North Eastern region. The region falls in Seismic Zone V as per IS 1893. As per the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) code on Site Evaluation of Nuclear Facilities, Nuclear Power plants are not set up in Seismic Zone V.
